

of a nuclear system that we no longer need."

Some might question whether it is appropriate to reduce the United States stockpile without a direct assurance that other nations would reduce theirs by the same amount. However, this is flawed Cold War thinking. As Secretary Powell has stated, we have far more weapons than necessary to devastate any opponent, real or imagined, many times over. Clearly, we can reduce our stockpile without in any way reducing our nuclear deterrent, or our national security.

Having said this, reducing the stockpile is not enough. We also need to encourage and assist others in doing so. In particular, it is important that we help Russia by providing aid for dismantling weapons and by offering other economic assistance. We also need to continue to negotiate arms reductions and non-proliferation agreements with other countries, including, but not limited to Russia. Unilateral action can provide many benefits, but we need multilateral agreements to more fully reduce the nuclear threat, and prevent the spread of nuclear technology. Ultimately, the nuclear threat is a threat to all of humanity, and all nations need to be part of a coordinated effort to reduce that threat.

In recent months, we have renewed a long-standing debate about whether to deploy a national missile defense. Proponents of such a system argue that it would reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons by giving us the capacity to deflect incoming nuclear weapons. However, many have raised serious concerns about this approach, and the risk that it actually could reduce our national security by creating a new arms race and heightening international tensions.

The bill I am introducing today offers a proven way to reduce the nuclear threat that can be accomplished quickly and without the controversy associated with a national missile defense system.

There are few issues more important than reducing the risks posed by nuclear weapons. For the past half century, the world has lived with these weapons, and it is easy to underestimate the huge threat they represent. Yet it is critical that we remain vigilant and do everything in our power to reduce that threat. The fate of the world, quite literally, is at stake.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple but powerful measure.

#### STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 142—EX- PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMI- NATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RE- LATED INTOLERANCE

Mr. DODD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 142

Whereas racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia persist in various parts of the world despite continuing efforts by the international community;

Whereas in recent years the world has witnessed campaigns of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas racial minorities, migrants, asylum seekers, and indigenous peoples are persistent targets of intolerance and violence;

Whereas millions of human beings continue to encounter discrimination solely due to their race, skin color, or ethnicity;

Whereas early action is required to prevent the growth of ethnic hatred and to diffuse potential violent conflicts;

Whereas the problems associated with racism will be thoroughly explored at the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa from August 31 to September 7, 2001;

Whereas this conference will review progress made in the fight against racism and consider ways to better ensure the application of existing standards to combat racism;

Whereas the conference will increase the level of awareness about the scourge of racism and formulate concrete recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with racial issues;

Whereas the conference will review the political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and other factors leading to racism and racial discrimination and formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional, and international measures to combat racism;

Whereas the conference will draw up concrete recommendations to ensure that the United Nations has the resources to actively combat racism and racial discrimination; and

Whereas the United States is a member of the United Nations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should attend and participate fully in the United Nations World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

(2) the delegation sent to the conference by the United States should reflect the racial and geographic diversity of the United States; and

(3) the President should support the conference and should act in such a way as to facilitate substantial United States involvement in the conference.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the possibility that the United States will not send a full

delegation to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. I believe this is both a worthwhile and important endeavor, and I am greatly troubled by the prospect that the United States may not attend.

According to a Washington Post article last week, the Bush Administration's reservations about attending the conference stem from concerns regarding certain proposed items on the agenda. The Administration's concerns are legitimate ones, but it is my belief that the Conference organizers are so anxious to have high level U.S. participation in Durban that contentious issues can be resolved prior to the August event, provided the United States signals its genuine interest in participating. Clearly the overarching objectives of the conference are of great importance to the American people and to peoples throughout the planet. As members of the global community, and as a global leader and vocal advocate for human rights, it would be tragic if the United States could not find a way to support the conference's honorable ambitions.

I do not need to list for my colleagues all the many injustices that occur each day, worldwide, that can be attributed to racism and ignorance, racism's frequent collaborator. As we all know, despite the best efforts of the international community, the effects of racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia continue to threaten and victimize people the world over. We have seen the violent devastations of racism in the former Yugoslavia, in Indonesia, and sadly, at home in America as well. The hateful term "ethnic cleansing" is now all too often used to describe violent international conflicts, and, increasingly, international humanitarian relief efforts focus on the tides of refugees fleeing persecution based on skin color, religion, and ethnic heritage. The task that lays before all nations therefore, is to peer deeply into the corners of our societies that we find most distasteful and hurtful, and to shine some light honestly onto the devastation that racism has inflicted.

In my view, the United Nations World Conference on Racism is the place to begin this difficult, but crucial process of racial introspection. It is not enough for the United States to pay lip service to the ideals of racial equality. We should attend this conference, and lend our full support to this worthy cause. I believe that in the conference we have a unique opportunity to work with other nations, our neighbors and partners, to begin the process of addressing the many crimes caused by racism, and the underlying societal causes of racism itself. This conference has the power to raise awareness about these issues, to form international consensus on best to combat racism, and

to educate the international community on the ravages of racially motivated persecution and conflict.

It is my hope, that the Bush Administration will conclude that our presence at the United Nations Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance is vital and appropriate, and will work to ensure that problems related to U.S. participation are resolved before the conference convenes next month. I would also hope that the President would designate Secretary of State Colin Powell to lead a racially and geographically diverse delegation from the United States to the conference in South Africa. Toward that end, I am submitting a resolution which urges the active participation of the United States in the conference, and it is my hope that my colleagues will support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON VETERANS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNTRY AND THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11 THROUGH NOVEMBER 17, 2001, AS "NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. INOUE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MILLER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. THURMOND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. BOND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 143

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining our freedoms and way of life;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked

decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in our Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas our system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the Nation's future leaders understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas on June 14, 2001, the Senate adopted an amendment to the Better Education for Students and Teachers Act expressing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Education should work with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Day National Committee, and the veterans service organizations to encourage, prepare, and disseminate educational materials and activities for elementary and secondary school students aimed at increasing awareness of the contributions of veterans to the prosperity and freedoms enjoyed by United States citizens: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the week of November 11 through November 17, 2001, be designated as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the purpose of emphasizing educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate educational activities.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I have the honor of joining with 51 of my colleagues in submitting a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week that includes Veterans' Day this year be designated as "National Veterans Awareness Week." The purpose of National Veterans Awareness Week is to serve as a focus for educational programs designed to make students in elementary and secondary schools aware of the contributions of veterans and their importance in preserving American peace and prosperity.

Why do we need such an educational effort? In a sense, this action has become necessary because we are victims of our own success with regard to the superior performance of our armed forces. The plain fact is that there are just fewer people around now who have had any connection with military service. For example, as a result of tremendous advances in military technology and the resultant productivity increases, our current armed forces now operate effectively with a personnel roster that is one-third less in size than just 10 years ago. In addition, the success of the all-volunteer career-oriented force has led to much lower turnover of personnel in today's military than in previous eras when conscription was in place. Finally, the number of veterans who served during previous conflicts, such as World War II, when our military was many times larger than today, is inevitably declining.

The net result of these changes is that the percentage of the entire popu-

lation that has served in the Armed Forces is dropping rapidly, a change that can be seen in all segments of society. Whereas during World War II it was extremely uncommon to find a family in America that did not have one of its members on active duty, now there are numerous families that include no military veterans at all. As a consequence of this lack of opportunity for contacts with veterans, many of our young people have little or no connection with or knowledge about the important historical and ongoing role of men and women who have served in the military. This omission seems to have persisted despite ongoing educational efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations.

This lack of understanding about military veterans' important role in our society can have potentially serious repercussions. In our country, civilian control of the armed forces is the key tenet of military governance. A citizenry that is oblivious to the capabilities and limitations of the armed forces, and to its critical role throughout our history, can make decisions that have unexpected and unwanted consequences. Even more important, general recognition of the importance of those individual character traits that are essential for military success, such as patriotism, selflessness, sacrifice, and heroism, is vital to maintaining these key aspects of citizenship in the armed forces and even throughout the population at large.

Among today's young people, a generation that has grown up largely during times of peace and extraordinary prosperity and has embraced a "me first" attitude, it is perhaps even more important to make sure that there is solid understanding of what it has taken to attain this level of comfort and freedom. The failure of our children to understand why a military is important, why our society continues to depend on it for ultimate survival, and why a successful military requires integrity and sacrifice, will have predictable consequences as these youngsters become of voting age. Even though military service is a responsibility that is no longer shared by a large segment of the population, as it has been in the past, knowledge of the contributions of those who have served in the Armed Forces is as important as it has ever been. To the extent that many of us will not have the opportunity to serve our country in uniform, we must still remain cognizant of our responsibility as citizens to fulfill the obligations we owe, both tangible and intangible, to those who do serve and who do sacrifice on our behalf.

The importance of this issue was brought home to me last year by Samuel I. Cashdollar, who was then a 13-year-old seventh grader at Lewes Middle School in Lewes, Delaware. Samuel